

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A latch circuit, comprising:
a bistable pair of transistors connected between a reset switch and a first supply voltage, and having a first port capable of receiving a first current signal and producing a first output voltage, and a second port capable of receiving a second current signal and producing a second output voltage; and
a vertical latch connected between said first supply voltage and a second supply voltage, and connected to said first port, said vertical latch having a transistor connected to said first supply voltage but isolated from said second supply voltage, wherein said transistor is configured to amplify a change in said first output voltage in response to said first current signal received.
2. The latch circuit of claim 1, wherein said transistor is a MOSFET.
3. The latch circuit of claim 1, wherein said reset switch is a microelectromechanical reset switch.
4. The latch circuit of claim 1, wherein said vertical latch is capable of decreasing the time necessary for said first port to reach a steady state voltage in response to said first current signal received.
5. The latch circuit of claim 1, further comprising a vertical latch reset switch connected to said vertical latch.
6. The latch circuit of claim 1, further comprising a second vertical latch connected between said first supply voltage and said second supply voltage, and connected to said second port.

7. A latch circuit, comprising:
 - a bistable pair of transistors connected between a reset switch and a first supply voltage, and having a first port capable of receiving a first current signal and producing a first output voltage, and a second port capable of receiving a second current signal and producing a second output voltage; and
 - a vertical latch connected between said first supply voltage and a second supply voltage, and connected to said first port;
 - wherein said vertical latch comprises:
 - a first current mirror pair connected to said bistable pair of transistors; and
 - a second current mirror pair connected to said first current mirror pair.
8. The latch circuit of claim 7, wherein a current gain of said first current mirror pair is less than one.
9. The latch circuit of claim 7, wherein said reset switch is a microelectromechanical reset switch.
10. The latch circuit of claim 7, wherein said vertical latch is capable of decreasing the time necessary for said first port to reach a steady state voltage in response to said first current signal received.
11. The latch circuit of claim 7, further comprising a vertical latch reset switch connected to said vertical latch.
12. The latch circuit of claim 7, further comprising a second vertical latch connected between said first supply voltage and said second supply voltage, and connected to said second port.

13. A reset circuit for a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors connected to a supply voltage, the reset circuit comprising:

a first transistor connected to the supply voltage;

a second transistor connected between said first transistor and a first port of the latch circuit; and

a third transistor connected between said first transistor and a second port of the latch circuit.

14. The reset circuit of claim 13, wherein at least one of said first transistor, said second transistor, and said third transistor is a MOSFET.

15. An analog-to-digital converter, comprising:

a comparator having a first input capable of receiving an analog signal and a second input capable of receiving a reference signal, said comparator capable of producing a digital signal;

wherein said comparator comprises a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors coupled between a reset circuit and a first supply voltage, and a vertical latch coupled between said first supply voltage and a second supply voltage and coupled to said bistable pair of transistors, said vertical latch having a first transistor coupled to said bistable pair of transistors and a second transistor coupled to said first transistor.

16. The analog-to-digital converter of claim 15, wherein at least one of said first transistor and said second transistor is a MOSFET.

17. A method for decreasing the time in which a latch circuit port receiving a current signal greater than a bias current reaches a steady state voltage, comprising the steps of:

(1) amplifying the current signal greater than the bias current while maintaining a current signal less than the bias current received at a second latch circuit port; and

(2) applying said amplified current signal to the latch circuit port receiving the current signal greater than the bias current.

18. In a latch circuit having a bistable pair and a vertical latch, wherein the bistable pair has a first transistor and a second transistor configured so that a first type terminal of the first transistor is connected to a second type terminal of the second transistor at a first port, a first type terminal of the second transistor is connected to a second type terminal of the first transistor at a second port, and a third type terminal of the first transistor and a third type terminal of the second transistor are connected together, and wherein the vertical latch has a third transistor and a fourth transistor configured so that a second type terminal of the third transistor is connected to a second type terminal of the second transistor and a first type terminal of the fourth transistor, a third type terminal of the third transistor is connected to a first supply voltage, a third type terminal of the fourth transistor is connected to a second supply voltage, and a second type terminal of the fourth transistor is connected to a first type terminal of the third transistor, a method for reducing the power consumed by the latch circuit, comprising the steps of:

- (1) resetting the bistable pair and the vertical latch; and
- (2) holding the fourth transistor OFF during said resetting.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein step (2) comprises the step of:

- (3) holding the third transistor OFF during said resetting.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein step (2) comprises the step of:

- (4) after said resetting, holding the fourth transistor OFF when the second transistor changes state from ON to OFF.